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District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 7, 2005

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STOLEN INFANT FORMULA RINGLEADER SENTENCED TO PRISON ON THEFT RELATED CHARGES

PHOENIX – Samih Fadl Jamal, 36, of Tempe, Ariz. was sentenced here late today to 10 years in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, by U.S. District Judge Frederick J. Martone. Jamal was found guilty by a federal jury on April 26, 2005 on 20 counts that included theft related charges, conspiracy, money laundering, false statements, structuring financial transactions, and employment of unauthorized aliens all revolving around a stolen infant formula ring. A money judgement of \$2.6 million was entered against Jamal for losses to businesses from whom the infant formula was stolen.

U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton said “The ultimate consumers of these stolen products were infant children. Mr. Jamal’s conviction and sentence for this theft should go a long way in preventing crimes of this nature.”

FBI Special Agent in Charge Jana Monroe stated that “We cannot overstate the importance of today’s adjudication. This day marks the culmination of a four year investigation conducted by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The success of this investigation can be attributed to multi-agency cooperation. It is through such cooperation that the Arizona portion of this criminal enterprise has been dismantled.”

Phoenix Police Chief Jack Harris added that “This investigation is a good example of what can happen when excellent investigators from multiple jurisdictions work together.”

Jamal was the ring leader of a fencing operation based in Tempe, Ariz. that purchased large quantities of stolen infant formula, then repackaged and distributed it, primarily through stores in Arizona, California and Texas designated by the Women, Infant and Children food stamp program. This case represents one of several cases being prosecuted across the U.S. targeting the organized retail theft of infant formula.

Jamal employed predominantly Arab males who stole or fraudulently obtained infant formula around the country and transported it to Tempe, Ariz. and other locations during 1997-2003. Twenty other defendants in this case have either pleaded guilty or been found guilty. One defendant is pending trial.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI, Tempe Police Department, Phoenix Police Department, Pasadena, Texas Police Department, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Internal Revenue Service and the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office. The prosecution was handled by Kevin M. Rapp, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Ariz and Michael W. Kemp, former Assistant U.S. Attorney and now a Superior Court Judge for the State of Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-261-PHX-FJM
#2005-179

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